

1. Title II Environmental Compliance Facesheet

TITLE II ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE FACESHEET

Title of MYAP or SYAP: Programa Comunitario Materno Infantil de Diversificación Alimentaria – PROCOMIDA

Award Number: N/A

Country/Region: Guatemala/Latin America

Implementing Partner: Mercy Corps

Funding Begin: July 2009

Funding End: July 2014

LOA Amount: \$
24,929,494.

Sub-Activity Amount: N/A

Resource Levels

Monetization

Request: \$ 19,541,293

Commodity: 11,720 MT

202(e): \$ 5,388,201

ITSH: \$ 0

IEE Prepared by:

Kathy Fry, Regional Program Director/Latin America

Date: June 22, 2009

IEE Amendment (Y/N): N If “Yes,” Date of Original IEE: N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED: (Place X where applicable)

X Request for Categorical Exclusion(s): activities have no adverse effect (i.e., training, technical assistance; not to include any infrastructure rehabilitation.)

X Negative Determination: no significant adverse effects expected for activities which are well defined over life of the award.

X without conditions (no special mitigation measures needed)

☐ **with conditions** (mitigation measures specified)

☐ **Positive Determination:** potential for significant adverse effect of one or more activities. Appropriate environmental review needed/conducted.

☐ **Deferral:** elements not well defined; activities will not be implemented until amended IEE is approved. Briefly describe here:

Environmental Media and/or Human Health Potentially Impacted
(check all that apply):

Air ☐; *Water* ☐; *Land* ☐; *Biodiversity* (specify) ☐; *Human Health* **X**; *Social* **X**; *None* ☐

Summary of Findings:

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Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (i) & (viii) Categorical Exclusions are recommended for ALL 19 listed activities of the project, as listed below:

Program Objective 1: By 2014, pregnant and lactating women, children under 2 and malnourished children under 5 in program areas have improved and sustainable health and nutrition status.

Activities:

- 1.1 Consultation with government and civil society leaders
- 1.2 Establish/ strengthen community health commissions
- 1.3 Disseminate criteria and selection of beneficiaries
- 1.4 Provide preventative rations to all pregnant or lactating women and all children aged 6-24 months
- 1.5 Management of Acute Malnutrition
- 1.6 Develop behavior change communication messages
- 1.7 Enhance the capacity of community outreach actors (CHCs, CHVs, etc) to deliver BCC
- 1.8 Mothers' groups formed
- 1.9 Improved practices reinforced through home visits, ration distribution and radio
- 1.10 Establish community emergency funds to facilitate transportation to health services.
- 1.11 Increase utilization of household action plans for reducing vulnerability.
- 1.12 Connect with ongoing Mercy Corps food security programs

Program Objective 2: By 2014, health care service providers at community through municipal levels have improved service quality and delivery.

Activities:

- 2.1 Enhance technical capacity of health service providers to provide strong MCHN care
- 2.2 Improve MoH extension services through building capacity of SIAS NGOs
- 2.3 Strengthen recognition and treatment of children with SAM
- 2.4 Facilitate regular meetings among community health commissions, community leaders, health service providers to plan around community health-related priorities and concerns.
- 2.5 Facilitate orientation visits to convergence centers, health posts and health centers by community members.
- 2.6 Strengthen health facility capacity to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care
- 2.7 Build the capacity of SIAS-implementing NGOs and MoH health post staff to prioritize, plan and advocate for community health priorities with key municipal, departmental and national actors and decision-makers

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USAID APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED:

Mission Clearance:

Mission Director: Wayne Z. Helstein Date: 7/20/2009
Mission Environmental Officer: Maria Teresa Rojas Date: 7/16/2009

Food for Peace Clearance:

Food for Peace Director: MMR Date: 7-24-09
FFP Officer/CTO: _____ Date: _____

Concurrence:

DCHA Bureau Environmental Officer: E. K. [Signature] Date: 8/3/09
Approved: ☒
Disapproved: ☐

Optional Clearances:

Mission Food for Peace Officer: Santhia Date: 7/16/2009 ✓
Regional Environmental Officer: _____ Date: _____ ✓
Geographic Bureau Environmental Officer: _____ Date: _____

Note – On July 14th a conversation was held with Paul Schmidtke, Regional Environmental Advisor (San Salvador). Mr. Schmidtke via phone concurred with the approval of this IEE.

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REQUEST FOR A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

1. Background and Activity Description

Mercy Corps proposes a five-year Multi-Year Assistance Program (MYAP) in Alta Verapaz and Quiché, Guatemala. *Programa Comunitario Materno Infantil de Diversificación Alimentaria (PROCOMIDA)* will utilize Mercy Corps' local extensive food security experience and its global capacity in maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN) to improve the nutritional status of 189,000 vulnerable residents of 400 communities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché. The goal of PROCOMIDA is improved nutritional status and health of women and children vulnerable to food insecurity in northern Guatemala. PROCOMIDA has two objectives:

1. By 2014, pregnant and lactating women, children under 2 and malnourished children under 5 in program areas have improved and sustainable health and nutrition status.
2. By 2014, health care service providers at community through municipal levels have improved service quality and delivery.

PROCOMIDA will focus only on malnutrition prevention and encompass a large operational research component in collaboration with FANTA-2 and IFPRI. Activities are aimed only at the prevention of malnutrition through BCC messaging and education, supplemental food rations distribution, referrals of SAM cases, community mobilization and community and governmental training and capacity building. PROCOMIDA activities will prioritize vulnerable households, especially those with pregnant and lactating women and/or children under 2.

Mercy Corps has been operational in the target region for more than seven years, and is implementing other food security activities in parallel to PROCOMIDA, including: land access through conflict mediation and dispute resolution; agriculture improvements; wat/san; and income generation.

2. Justification for Categorical Exclusion Request

PROCOMIDA proposes 19 activities under two objectives. Of these activities, ALL are classified as not requiring an Initial Environmental Examination, Environmental Assessment, and Environmental Impact Statement as per Regulation 216, 22 CFR 216.2 (c). It has been determined that all nineteen activities will have no effect on the natural or physical environment and fall under the following classes of action:

- 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (i): Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment; (Activities 1.2-3; 1.5-9; 1.11-12; 2.1-7)
- 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (viii): Programs involving nutrition, health care or population and family planning services except to the extent designed to include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, water supply systems, wastewater treatment, etc.) (Activities 1.1-1.12 & 2.1-2.7)

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Under these 2 provisions, a Request for Categorical Exclusions for these activities is justified.

TITLE II INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

Program/Project Data:

MYAP/SYAP Program/Activity: PROCOMIDA - Programa Comunitario Materno Infantil de Diversificación Alimentaria

CS Name, Country/Region: Mercy Corps, Guatemala/Latin America

1. BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

1.1 Background

Guatemala has the worst rate of chronic malnutrition in Latin America and one of the worst rates in the world. These conditions are most severe in rural areas among poor indigenous populations. Such malnutrition is especially harmful for children under the age of two, who can experience lifelong impairments in their physical and cognitive development. In the northern department of Alta Verapaz, more than 60 percent of children under five are chronically malnourished, while infant and maternal mortality rates are among the worst in the country. Despite this high level of need, Alta Verapaz and neighboring municipalities in Quiché have no recent experience with USAID Food for Peace programming, although both health facility staff and mothers of young children expressed interest in such a program during a recent Mercy Corps assessment.

Through the five-year Programa Comunitario Materno Infantil de Diversificación Alimentaria (PROCOMIDA), Mercy Corps will utilize its extensive local food security experience and its global capacity in maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN) to improve the nutritional status of 189,000 vulnerable residents of 400 communities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché. The goal of PROCOMIDA is **improved nutritional status and health of women and children vulnerable to food insecurity in northern Guatemala**. PROCOMIDA has two objectives:

1. By 2014, pregnant and lactating women, children under 2 and malnourished children under 5 in program areas have improved and sustainable health and nutrition status.
2. By 2014, health care service providers at community through municipal levels have improved service quality and delivery.

Mercy Corps will apply lessons learned from an innovative Title II child nutrition program implemented by World Vision in Haiti, which used a preventive approach for all pregnant/ lactating women and children aged 6-24 months in their target area regardless of their nutritional status. As measured by the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA-2) Project, the Preventing Malnutrition in Children Under Two (PM2A) approach led to greater improvement in nutritional status, at a lower cost per beneficiary, when compared to a recuperative approach.

PROCOMIDA will provide beneficiaries with a nutritionally balanced ration, made up of corn-soy blend, bagged rice, pinto beans and vegetable oil, and will enable mothers and other caregivers to adopt healthier practices, including health-seeking behaviors. At the same time, PROCOMIDA will work with the staff of government health facilities as well as organized community structures to improve the technical and

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culturally appropriate provision of services. Thus, PROCOMIDA will address both the demand and supply side of health care in northern Guatemala. In addition to the nutritional impact of the ration, its distribution will act as an incentive for poor households to participate in the program.

Mercy Corps' substantial healthcare and food security experience in Alta Verapaz has included the provision of technical assistance to health center staff and communities since 2001 through its Community Health and Micro Credit (CHAM) program, and the establishment of community and municipal level health commissions through its DFID-funded "Improving the Health of the Rural Indigenous Population in Alta Verapaz" program. In both, Mercy Corps worked closely with the Ministry of Health on the national, municipal and community levels, strengthening the government's capacity to deliver on its healthcare mandate in parallel with a strengthened civil society awareness and partnership in health care ownership. Following the formation and revitalization of nearly 500 health commissions, use of health services increased, while child and maternal mortality decreased by 19 and 28 percent respectively. PROCOMIDA is thus a natural development from the relationships formed and impacts achieved in these earlier programs. Other Mercy Corps projects in the area include the facilitation of food production and commercialization, land tenure advocacy and conflict mediation, water and sanitation, and microcredit provision for indigenous rural women, ensuring that PROCOMIDA will be supported by a broad range of food security approaches. While Mercy Corps has been an active development organization in this region, the agency has never distributed food aid here, so government and communities will not have preconceptions on how we will implement such activities.

PROCOMIDA will employ a preventive methodology based on the evidence-based research and results from World Vision's PM2A approach, as described in 2008 by the Lancet.¹ This approach focuses on protecting children at the most critical period in their development. Food supplementation is both an incentive for mothers' participation and a source of macro and micro nutrients for pregnant and lactating women and children between 6-24 months of age. Since the monthly ration will include a household component, it will resolve existing intra-household allocation issues. PROCOMIDA will also recuperate acutely malnourished children through the age of five by identifying cases and referring to existing service for treatment.

In designing comprehensive and well-targeted behavior change communication (BCC) components, Mercy Corps will utilize the BEHAVE Framework and a multi-level response designed to reinforce BCC information, education and new behavior adoption at the household and community levels. This will be clearly coordinated with existing messages from the MoH. The final critical component of PROCOMIDA will be strengthening both community and government health systems so they can collaborate to provide adequate MCHN service coverage and quality.

The PROCOMIDA program will work over five years to improve the nutritional and health status of women and children vulnerable to food insecurity in Alta Verapaz and Quiché. To accomplish this, Mercy Corps has designed the project and its activities to use the existing health structures to empower caregivers to take responsibility for the welfare of their families, particularly, for young children and pregnant and lactating women. This will take place through increased knowledge and improved practices, supported by improved quality and delivery of health services. Mercy Corps will work through local health commissions at the community level, SIAS implementing NGOs at the convergence center level, and municipal health commissions and other indigenous programs such as *Mi Familia Progres*a at the

¹ Supplemental Title II Proposal Guidance for Burundi and Guatemala PM2A, Age Based Preventive Targeting of Food Assistance and Behavior Change etc [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(08\)60271-8/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(08)60271-8/fulltext)

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municipal level, to ensure that PROCOMIDA activities strengthen the existing health services structure while focusing its services on the specific nutrition and health priorities of the targeted population.

1.2 Description of Activities

PROCOMIDA activities are outlined from the logical framework:

Objective	Intermediate Results	Activities
1. By 2014, pregnant and lactating women, children under 2 and malnourished children under 5 in program areas have improved and sustainable health and nutrition status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased consumption of energy and nutrient dense foods in households with pregnant/lactating women, a child 6-24 months of age, and/or a child 24-59 months with acute malnutrition. Improve household knowledge, attitudes and practices for key care behaviors. Increased engagement of households in reducing vulnerability to food insecurity. 	1.1 Consultation with government and civil society leaders 1.2 Establish/ strengthen community health commissions 1.3 Disseminate criteria and selection of beneficiaries 1.4 Provide preventative rations to all pregnant or lactating women and all children aged 6-24 months 1.5 Management of Acute Malnutrition 1.6 Develop behavior change communication messages 1.7 Enhance the capacity of community outreach actors (CHCs, CHVs, etc) to deliver BCC 1.8 Mothers' groups formed 1.9 Improved practices reinforced through home visits, ration distribution and radio 1.10 Establish community emergency funds to facilitate transportation to health services. 1.11 Increase utilization of household action plans for reducing vulnerability. 1.12 Connect with ongoing Mercy Corps food security programs
2. By 2014, health care service providers at community through municipal levels have improved service quality and delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased and improved provision of minimum standards in health services to women and children. Increased communication and interaction between vulnerable populations and health service providers. Increased promotion and planning by health care providers to meet community health care needs. 	2.1 Enhance technical capacity of health service providers to provide strong MCHN care 2.2 Improve MoH extension services through building capacity of SIAS NGOs 2.3 Strengthen recognition and treatment of children with SAM 2.4 Facilitate regular meetings among community health commissions, community leaders, health service providers to plan around community health-related priorities and concerns. 2.5 Facilitate orientation visits to convergence centers, health posts and health centers by community members. 2.6 Strengthen health facility capacity to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care 2.7 Build the capacity of SIAS-implementing NGOs and MoH health post staff to prioritize, plan and advocate for community health priorities with key municipal, departmental and national actors and decision-makers

2. COUNTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (BASELINE INFORMATION)

2.1 Locations Affected

The activities of PROCOMIDA are proposed to directly impact approximately 31,500 households (189,000 individuals) in approximately 400 communities in a target area of 17 municipalities in the department of Alta Verapaz and 1 municipality in the neighboring Playa Grande municipality of the northern Quiché Department. All project activities are focused on nutrition and are limited to research, training, communications and capacity building, as well as food distribution.

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Mercy Corps anticipates receiving commodities for distribution at port in Puerto Santo Tomas de Castilla², on the Atlantic coast of Guatemala, and will manage the shipment of distribution commodities to Cobán, Alta Verapaz from port (see map in Attachment 1). This will take place using good-quality overland truck routes. Mercy Corps will warehouse commodities in Cobán at existing facilities. Ration distributions will take place year-round throughout the life of the activity and Mercy Corps will also manage the transport of commodities to existing sub-warehouses, located closer to program activities, on a regular basis. From these locations, the project will implement its food distribution activities. Throughout the process, from port to distribution, Mercy Corps will follow recognized best practices for commodity management to minimize losses and maximize quality and ensure there are no negative environmental impacts.

Alta Verapaz is predominantly a cool, humid mountain area situated in the region II or North region in the Republic of Guatemala. Verapaz is bordered to the north by El Petén, to the east by Izabal, to the south by Zacapa, El Progreso, and Baja Verapaz, and to the west by El Quiché. It is located in the latitude 15° 28' 07" and length 90° 22' 36" and covers a territory of 8,686 square kilometers, divided into 16 municipalities and hosting a population of some 776,246 individuals. Its topography is extremely variable, with mountains and peaks that exceed 3,000 meters and low lands that descend to some 300 meters. The climatology is also extremely variable, in relation to the elevations and ruggedness of the land. It has an annual rainfall of 3.5m which is the reason for the green and lush vegetation. The climate is ideal for coffee, thus there are huge coffee farms throughout the department. Several cloud forests allow tourists to observe the famous but illusive Quetzal bird. The main tourist activities are trekking, caving and white water rafting.

Ethnicities include Q'eqchi', Poqomchi' and Ladino. The local Q'eqchi Indians have preserved their language and customs to a remarkable degree. The dominant language of the Alta Verapaz remains Q'eqchi, and Pocomchi', not Spanish.

2.2 Host Country National Environmental Policies and Procedures

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is the agency mandated for environmental matters for the Public Sector and to which falls the responsibility to protect the natural systems that give life in all its expressions, promote a culture of respect and harmony with nature and protect, preserve and utilize natural resources in order to achieving a trans-generational development, articulating the environmental, social, economic, and institutional task, for the purpose of forging a competitive, supportive, fair, inclusive and participatory Guatemala.

MARN's Mission is to formulate and execute public politics for inter-generational development with the goal to protect and to maintain healthy human beings, to improve the quality of life of all the Guatemalan citizens through the conservation, protection and growing improvement of the environment and of the natural resources while maintaining health and diminishing the deterioration and the loss of the natural patrimony, and promote the decrease of environmental vulnerability, in a climate of environmental justice.

MARN's Vision is to contribute in a significant way to the achievement of a national situation in which the people enjoy the best quality of abundant goods and natural services; have sufficient and clean energy

² The seaport of the city was built in 1976 and is today among the busiest in Central America, with a good road infrastructure network to transport commodities inland.

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to assure their natural, vital, essential and inter-generational rights, inside a framework of eco-efficiency and energy independence, and live in a climate of authentic environmental justice.

In the framework of the governmental apparatus, MARN offers the necessary support so that all its companies know to orient their politics and actions toward the establishment of a model of development that adopt environmentally compatible practices; before the population in general, MARN is recognized as an dependable institution that watches in an efficient way the protection of their right to an ecologically stable and healthy environment.”³

“Guatemala has a wealth of natural resources that are both ecologically and economically important. The country contains the largest area of cloud forest and wetlands and the highest population of large cats in Central America. As an important point of convergence of species migrating from both North and South America, Guatemala plays a vital role in the conservation of many migratory bird species from the United States. Rich biodiversity, cultural diversity, and a historic past easily make Guatemala one of the world’s top tourism destinations. Tourism and other enterprises based on natural resources, such as forestry, comprise a significant part of Guatemala’s jobs and export earnings. Increased investment and economic growth in natural-resource-based sectors need to be managed carefully to conserve the environmental and economic value of these resources.”⁴

USAID/Guatemala’s environment program, located within the Office of Enterprise, Trade and Environment, supports environmentally sound management of natural resources in priority areas of high biodiversity, including the Maya Biosphere Reserve in the Petén, the Motagua-Polochic system (which includes the Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve), and the Atitlan Volcanoes Bioregion. The program aims towards providing sustainable income-generation alternatives to people living in and around protected areas. Activities include efforts to establish certified timber production, encourage tourism, and promote environmentally sound production practices.”⁵

3. EVALUATION OF ACTIVITY/PROGRAM ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT POTENTIAL

Activity	Geographic Location	Scale and Quantity	Potential Environmental Impact	Expected Determination
Objective 1: By 2014, pregnant and lactating women, children under 2 and malnourished children under 5 in program areas have improved and sustainable health and nutrition status.				
1.1 Consultation with government and civil society leaders	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	400 communities; 80 convergence centers	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(viii)
1.2 Establish/strengthen community health commissions	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	400 communities; 80 convergence centers	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2) (i) & (viii)

³ MARN Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales website

⁴ USAID website

⁵ USAID website

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Activity	Geographic Location	Scale and Quantity	Potential Environmental Impact	Expected Determination
1.3 Disseminate criteria and selection of beneficiaries	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	189,000 vulnerable residents; 400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2) (i) & (viii)
1.4 Provide preventative rations to all pregnant or lactating women and all children aged 6-24 months	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	189,000 vulnerable residents; 400 communities; 80 convergence centers	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2) (viii)
1.5 Management of Acute Malnutrition	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	Estimate 400 max cases will be found across 400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (viii)
1.6 Develop behavior change communication messages	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	189,000 vulnerable residents; 400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (viii)
1.7 Enhance the capacity of community outreach actors (CHCs, CHVs, etc) to deliver BCC	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	189,000 vulnerable residents; 400 communities; 80 convergence centers	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (viii)
1.8 Mothers' groups formed	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (vii)
1.9 Improved practices reinforced through home visits, ration distribution and radio	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	189,000 vulnerable residents; 400 communities ; 80 convergence centers	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (viii)
1.10 Establish community emergency funds to facilitate transportation to health services.	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	80 Convergence Centers; 400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2) (viii)
1.11 Increase utilization of household action plans for reducing vulnerability.	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	189,000 vulnerable residents; 400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (viii)
1.12 Connect with ongoing Mercy Corps food security programs	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	189,000 vulnerable residents; 400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (viii)
Objective 2: By 2014, health care service providers at community through municipal level have improved service quality and delivery.				

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Activity	Geographic Location	Scale and Quantity	Potential Environmental Impact	Expected Determination
2.1 Enhance technical capacity of health service providers to provide strong MCHN care	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	80 Convergence Centers; 400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (viii)
2.2 Improve MoH extension services through building capacity of SIAS NGOs	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	80 Convergence Centers; 400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (viii)
2.3 Strengthen recognition and treatment of children with SAM	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	80 Convergence Centers; 400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (viii)
2.4 Facilitate regular meetings among community health commissions, community leaders, health service providers to plan around community health-related priorities and concerns.	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	80 Convergence Centers; 400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (viii)
2.5 Facilitate orientation visits to convergence centers, health posts and health centers by community members.	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	80 Convergence Centers; 400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (viii)
2.6 Strengthen health facility capacity to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	80 Convergence Centers; 400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (viii)
2.7 Build the capacity of SIAS-implementing NGOs and MoH health post staff to prioritize, plan and advocate for community health priorities with key municipal, departmental and national actors and decision-makers	Selection of municipalities in Alta Verapaz and Quiché	80 Convergence Centers; 400 communities	N/A	Categorical Exclusions Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) & (viii)

4. RECOMMENDED MITIGATION ACTIONS (INCLUDING MONITORING AND EVALUATION)

4.1 Recommended 22 CFR 216 Determinations

All activities in the project are determined to have no impact on the environment, pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (viii). Furthermore, Activities 1.2-3; 1.5-9; 1.11-12; and 2.1-7 will also not have an impact on the environment, pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (i).

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Categorical Exclusions are therefore recommended for all activities.

4.2 Mitigation and Monitoring

No mitigation or monitoring plans are required as all activities have a Categorical Exclusion status pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (i) and/or (viii).

5. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

5.1 Environmental Determinations

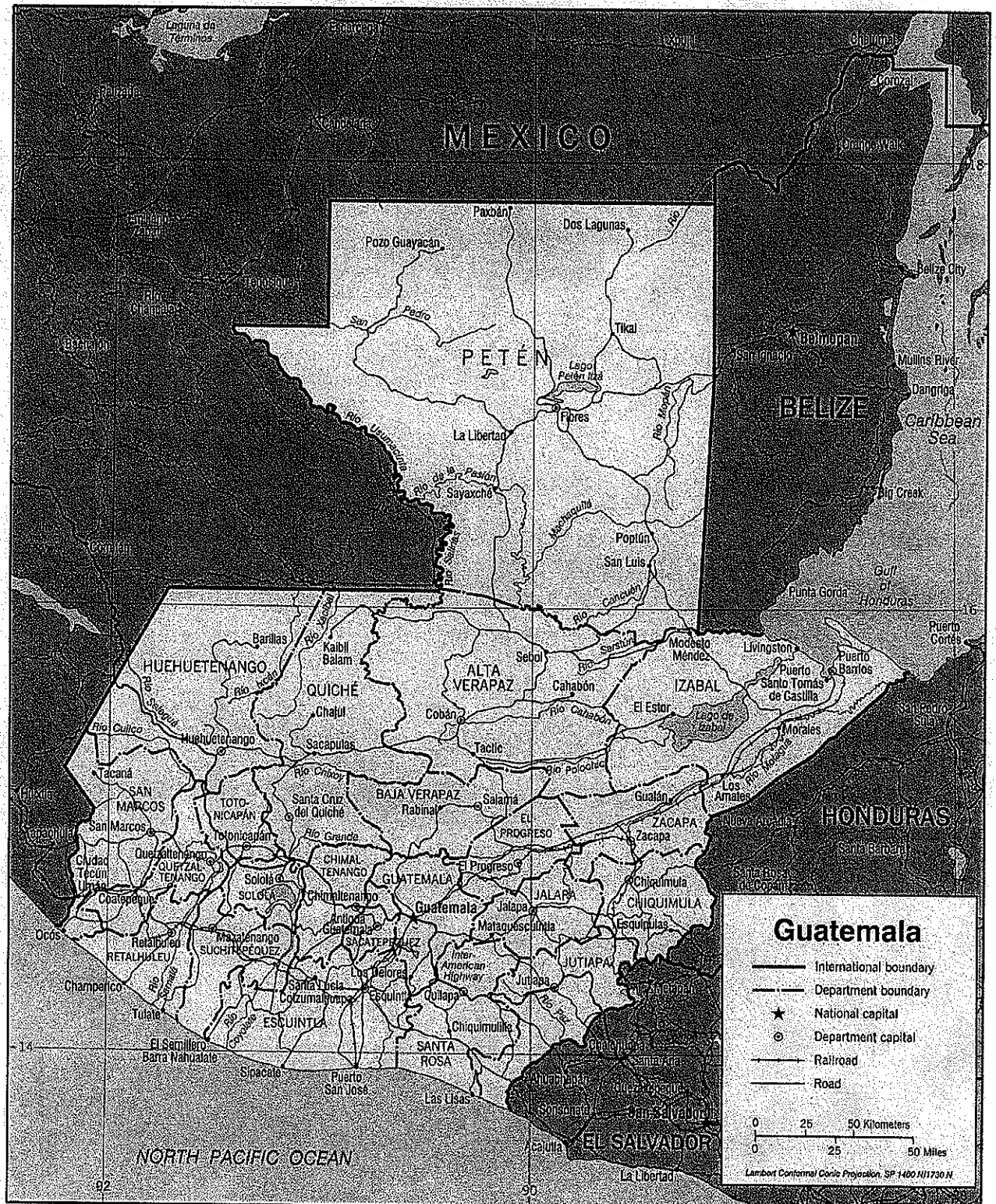
No activities are determined to have any negative environmental impact.

Mercy Corps requests the Bureau Environmental Officer's (BEO's) approval of a negative threshold decision for all activities proposed in this project, pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (i) and/or (viii).

5.2 Conditions

This IEE will be reviewed and revised if any revisions to the proposal and its activities are made that would have significant impact on the environment.

Attachment 1: Map of Guatemala



Base 802722AI (C00113) 12-00